

MASTER FUNDING AGREEMENT

26 March 2014

THE AQUINAS CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

MASTER FUNDING AGREEMENT

CONTENTS:

SECTION	CLAUSE NO
INTRODUCTION	1 – 10
LEGAL AGREEMENT	11
REQUIREMENTS OF AN ACADEMY	12
CONDITIONS OF GRANT	
General	13
Governance	14-15
Conduct	16
Disclosure and Barring Service Checks	17-17A
Pupils	18
Designated Teacher for Looked After Children	18A
Teachers and other staff	19-22
Curriculum, curriculum development and delivery and RE and collective worship	23-29
Assessment	30
Exclusions Agreement	31
School meals	32-33
Charging	34
International Education Surveys	34A
Pupil Premium	34B
DURATION OF THE SCHOOL DAY AND YEAR	34C
GRANTS TO BE PAID BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE	
General	35-36
Capital Grant	37-40

Arrangements for Payment of Capital Grant	41
General Annual Grant (GAG)	41A-54
Earmarked Annual Grant (EAG)	55-56
Arrangements for payment of GAG and EAG	57-61
Other relevant funding	62-65

FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS

General	66-80A
Borrowing Powers	81-82
Disposal of Assets	83-89

TERMINATION

General	90-93
Change of Control of the Company	93A – 93C

GENERAL

Information	95-96
Access by Secretary of State's Officers	97-99
Notices	100-101
Complaints	102-102A
General	103-108

SCHEDULE 1

Model Supplemental Funding Agreement

ANNEXES TO THE MASTER FUNDING AGREEMENT

Memorandum and Articles of the Company	Annex A
Arrangements for pupils with SEN and disabilities at each Academy	Annex B

INTRODUCTION

- 1) This Agreement is made under section 1 of the Academies Act 2010, between the Secretary of State for Education (“the Secretary of State”) and The Aquinas Catholic Academy Trust (the “Company”).
- 2) The Company is a company incorporated in England and Wales, limited by guarantee with registered Company number 8901256.
- 3) The Company intends to establish and maintain, and to carry on or provide for the carrying on of a number of Academies in accordance with this Agreement and the Supplemental Agreements.
- 4) This Agreement and the Supplemental Agreements will apply in respect of an Academy from such time as a Supplemental Agreement relating to that Academy shall have been entered into between the Secretary of State and the Company.
- 5) The following expressions used in this Agreement have the respective meanings assigned to them by the numbered clauses of this Agreement referred to immediately after the reference to the expressions -
 - a) “Academies Financial Handbook” - clause 67;
 - b) “Accounting Officer” – clause 66;
 - c) "Annual Letter of Funding" - clause 60;
 - d) "GAG" – clause 36;
 - e) "Capital Expenditure" - clause 37;
 - f) “Capital Grant” – clause 37;
 - g) "EAG" - clause 36;
 - h) “Local Governing Body” – clause 15;
 - i) “Recurrent Expenditure” – clause 36;
 - j) “Start-up Period” – clause 50;
- 6) In this Agreement the following words and expressions shall have the following

meanings:-

“Academy” means an Academy in respect of which a Supplemental Agreement has been entered into between the Secretary of State and the Company and the expression “Academies” shall refer to all or any of such Academies;

“Academy Financial Year” means the year from 1st September to 31st August or such other period as the Secretary of State may from time to time specify by notice in writing to the Company;

“admission requirements” – are annexed to the relevant Supplemental Agreement;

“this Agreement” means this agreement and its annexes and a reference in this Agreement to a numbered clause or annex is a reference to the clause or annex of this Agreement bearing that number or letter as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time;

“Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a day which is a bank holiday with the meaning given to that expression in the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971;

“Control” in relation to a body corporate (‘Entity’) means either the legal or beneficial ownership of 30 per cent or more of the issued shares in the Entity ordinarily having voting rights or the power of a person (‘A’) otherwise to secure –

(a) either by means of the holding of shares in that Entity or having an interest conferring voting rights at general meetings of the membership of the Entity or of any other body corporate;

(b) by virtue or any powers conferred by the articles of association or other document regulating that Entity or any other Entity or partnership including, without limitation, the power to appoint or remove a majority of the directors thereof, or

(c) by virtue of any agreement, understanding or arrangement between any person or persons,

that the affairs of the first-mentioned Entity are conducted in accordance with the wishes of A and ‘Controls’ shall be construed accordingly;

“DfE” means Department for Education and any successor thereof;

“Principal” means the head teacher of an Academy;

“Principal Regulator” means the body or person appointed as the Principal Regulator under the Charities Act 2006.

"LA" means the Local Authority in the area in which the relevant Academy is situated;

“Local Governing Body” means a committee which may be established by the Company in accordance with the Articles and “Local Governing Body” shall be construed accordingly;

“Memorandum” and “Articles” means the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company for the time being in force, a copy of the current version of which is annexed to this Agreement as Annex A;

“parents” means parents or guardians;

“persons” includes a body of persons, corporate or incorporate;

references to “school” shall where the context so admits be references to an Academy;

“SEN” means special educational needs, and the expressions “special educational needs” and “special educational provision” have the meaning set out in section 312 of the Education Act 1996;

“Supplemental Agreement” means an agreement supplemental to this Agreement, substantially in the form set out in Schedule 1 to this Agreement to be entered into by the Secretary of State and the Company pursuant to which the Company agrees to establish and maintain, and to carry on or provide for the carrying on, and the Secretary of State agrees to fund, an Academy in accordance with the terms and conditions of that Supplemental Agreement and this Agreement;

- 7) The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Agreement and any Supplemental Agreement as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
- 8) Expressions defined in this Agreement shall have the same meaning where used in any Annex to this Agreement or Supplemental Agreement.
- 9) Questions arising on the interpretation of the arrangements in this Agreement shall be resolved by the Secretary of State after consultation with the Company
- 10) Section 1 (3) of the Academies Act 2010 states that -

“(3) An Academy agreement is an agreement between the Secretary of State and the other party under which-

(a) the other party gives the undertakings in subsection (5), and

(b) the Secretary of State agrees to make payments to the other party in consideration of those undertakings.”

LEGAL AGREEMENT

11) In consideration of the Company undertaking to establish and maintain, and to carry on or provide for the carrying on of, a number of independent schools in England meeting the requirements as are referred to in clause 12, the Secretary of State agrees to make payments to the Company in accordance with the conditions and requirements set out in this Agreement and Supplemental Agreements. If it is agreed between the Secretary of State and the Company that the Company will establish and maintain, and to carry on or provide for the carrying on of an Academy, the parties will enter into a Supplemental Agreement in relation to that Academy. For the avoidance of doubt, any obligations imposed upon or powers given to an Academy by this Agreement or any Supplemental Agreement are also imposed upon and given to the Company.

REQUIREMENTS OF AN ACADEMY

12) The requirements of an Academy are those set down in Section 1A of the Academies Act 2010.

CONDITIONS OF GRANT

General

13) Other conditions and requirements in respect of an Academy, unless specified otherwise in a Supplemental Agreement, are that:

a) the school will be at the heart of its community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and the wider community;

b) there will be assessments of pupils performance as they apply to maintained schools and the opportunity to study for qualifications in accordance with clause 30 (d);

c) the admissions policy and arrangements for the school will be in accordance with admissions law, and the DfE Codes of Practice, as they apply to maintained schools;

d) teachers' levels of pay and conditions of service will be the responsibility of the Company;

e) there will be an emphasis on the needs of the individual pupils including pupils with SEN, both those with and without statements of SEN;

f) there will be no charge to pupils (or their parents or guardians) in respect of admission to, or attendance at, the school and the school will only charge pupils where the law allows maintained schools to charge;

g) the Company shall as soon as reasonably practicable establish an appropriate mechanism for the receipt and management of donations and shall use reasonable endeavours to procure donations through that mechanism for the purpose of the objects specified in the Articles.

13A) Clause 13f) does not prevent the Company receiving funds from a local authority or a charity in respect of the admission of a pupil with special educational needs to an Academy.

Governance

14) Each Academy will be governed by the Company. The Company shall have regard to (but for the avoidance of doubt shall not be bound by) any guidance as to the governance of Academies that the Secretary of State may publish.

15) Not used.

Conduct

16) Each Academy shall be conducted in accordance with:

a) the Articles;

b) all provisions by or under statute which confer rights or impose obligations on Academies including, without limitation, the independent schools standards prescribed under section 157 of the Education Act 2002 to the extent they apply to the Academy;

c) the terms of this Agreement and the relevant Supplemental Agreement.

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks

17) The Company shall comply with the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010 (or such regulations as may for some time being be

applicable) in relation to carrying out enhanced criminal records checks, obtaining enhanced criminal records certificates and making any further checks, as required and appropriate for members of staff, supply staff, individual Directors and the Chair of the Local Governing Body.

17A) The Company shall, on receipt of a copy of an enhanced criminal record certificate, on request from the Secretary of State or his agents, as soon as possible thereafter submit information contained in the certificate to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 124 of the Police Act 1997.

Pupils

18) Each Academy will be an all ability inclusive school whose requirements for:

- a) the admission of pupils to the Academy are set out in the relevant annex to the Supplemental Agreement;
- b) the admission to the Academy of and support for pupils with SEN and with disabilities (for pupils who have and who do not have statements of SEN) are set out in Annex B to this Agreement;
- c) pupil exclusions are set out in regulations made by virtue of section 51A of the Education Act 2002 (as may be amended or modified from time to time, and includes any successor provisions).

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

18A) The Company will in respect of each Academy act in accordance with, and be bound by, all relevant statutory and regulatory provisions and have regard to any guidance and codes of practice issued pursuant to such provisions, as they apply at any time to a maintained school, relating to the designation of a person to manage the teaching and learning programme for children who are looked after by an LA and are registered pupils at the school. For the purpose of this clause, any reference to the governing body of a maintained school in such statutory and regulatory provisions, or in any guidance and code of practice issued pursuant to such provisions, shall be deemed to be references to the Directors of the Company.

Teachers and other staff

19)

- a) subject to clause 19(b), the Company shall, in accordance with any guidance which the Secretary of State may issue on the qualifications of teaching and other staff in Academies, employ anyone it deems is suitably qualified or is otherwise eligible under a contract of employment or for services to carry out planning and preparing lessons and courses for pupils, delivering lessons to pupils, assessing the development, progress and attainment of pupils, and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils.
- b) clause 19(a) does not apply to anyone who:
 - i) is appointed as the SENCO by the Company under section 317(3A) of the Education Act 1996, who must meet the requirements set out in Regulation 3 of the Education (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/2945); or
 - ii) is appointed as a designated teacher for looked after children further to clause 18A.

20) Not used.

21) The Company shall ensure that all teachers employed at each Academy have access to the Teachers Pension Scheme and, in so doing, will comply with the statutory provisions underlying the scheme.

22) The Company shall ensure that all employees at each Academy other than teachers have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/239) (or such other regulations as may for the time being be applicable).

22A) Where a teacher employed at an Academy applies for a teaching post at another Academy, 16 to 19 Academy, maintained school, school maintained by a local authority or institution within the further education sector, the Company must at the request of the governing body or Academy Trust of that other educational institution:

- a) advise in writing whether or not, in the preceding two years, there has been any formal consideration of that teacher's capability to perform their role at the Academy, or the school the Academy replaced; and
- b) provide written details of the concerns which gave rise to any such consideration of that teacher's capability, the duration of the proceedings and their outcome.

Curriculum, curriculum development and delivery and RE and collective worship

23) The curriculum provided by each Academy to pupils up to the age of 16 shall be broad and balanced.

23A) Not used.

23B) The Company shall publish information in relation to the current curriculum provision at each Academy. Such information shall include details relating to:

- a) the content of the curriculum;
- b) its approach to the curriculum;
- c) the GCSE options (and other Key Stage 4 qualifications) or other future qualifications, as specified by the Secretary of State, offered by each Academy;
- d) the names of any phonics or reading schemes in operation for Key Stage 1; and
- e) how parents (including prospective parents) can obtain further information in relation to the curriculum at each Academy.

23C) Subject to the requirements of clauses 23, 23B and 24 to 29A, the curriculum will be the responsibility of the Company.

24) The Company shall ensure that the broad and balanced curriculum includes English, mathematics and science.

24A) Sections 42A (provision of careers guidance) and 45A (guidance as to discharge of duties) of the Education Act 1997 shall be deemed to apply to each Academy with the following modifications:-

- (a) each Academy shall be treated as falling within the meaning of “a school” under section 42A (2);
- (b) the Company shall be deemed to be the “responsible authorities” for the purposes of subsection 42A(3); and
- (c) references to registered pupils shall be treated as references to registered pupils at each Academy.

25) The Company shall make provision for the teaching of religious education and for a daily act of collective worship at each Academy.

26) Where an Academy is designated with a religious character in accordance with section 124B of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 or further to section 6(8) of the Academies Act 2010:

- a) subject to clause 28, and paragraph 4 of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 which shall apply as if the Academy were a voluntary aided school with a religious character, the Company shall ensure that provision is made for religious education to be given to all pupils at the Academy in accordance with the tenets of the specified religion or religious denomination of the Academy;
- b) subject to clause 28, the Company shall comply with the requirements of section 70(1) of, and Schedule 20 to, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as if the Academy were a foundation school with a religious character or a voluntary school, and as if references to 'the required collective worship' were references to collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the specified religion or religious denomination of the Academy;
- c) the Company shall ensure that the quality of religious education given to pupils at the Academy and the contents of the Academy's collective worship given in accordance with the tenets and practice of the specific religion or religious denomination are inspected. Such inspection shall be conducted by a person chosen by the Company and the Academy shall secure that such inspection shall comply with the requirements set out in any statutory provision and regulations as if the Academy were a foundation or voluntary school which has been designated under section 69(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as having a religious character.

27) Where an Academy has not been designated with a religious character in accordance with section 124B of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 or further to Section 6(8) of the Academies Act 2010:

- a) subject to clause 28, the Company shall ensure that provision shall be made for religious education to be given to all pupils at the Academy in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses in section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph 2(5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998;

b) subject to clause 28, the Company shall ensure that the Academy complies with the requirements of section 70(1) of, and Schedule 20 to, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as if it were a community, foundation or voluntary school which does not have a religious character, except that the provisions of paragraph 4 of that Schedule do not apply. The Academy may apply to the Secretary of State for consent to be relieved of the requirement imposed by paragraph 3(2) of that Schedule, the Secretary of State's consent to such an application not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed;

c) the Company:

(1) agrees that before making an application pursuant to the Religious Character of Schools (Designation Procedure) (Independent Schools) (England) Regulations 2003 for each Academy to be designated as a school with religious character it shall seek the prior written consent of the Secretary of State;

(2) hereby acknowledges that the Secretary of State may in his absolute discretion refuse or consent to the Company making such an application.

28) Section 71(1) – (6) and (8) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 shall apply as if each Academy were a community, foundation or voluntary school, and as if references to “religious education” and to “religious worship” in that section were references to the religious education and religious worship provided by each Academy in accordance with clauses 26 or 27 as appropriate.

29) The Company shall have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State, further to section 403 of the Education Act 1996, on sex and relationship education to ensure that children at each Academy are protected from inappropriate teaching materials and they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and for bringing up children. The Company shall also have regard to the requirements set out in section 405 of the Education Act 1996 which shall apply to each Academy as if it were a maintained school.

29A) The Company agrees to act in accordance with Sections 406 (Political Indoctrination) and 407 (Duty to secure balance treatment of political issues) of the Education Act 1996 as if it were a maintained school, subject to the following modifications:

a) references to any maintained school shall be treated as references to each Academy;

b) references to registered pupils shall be treated as references to registered pupils at

each Academy;

- c) references to the governing body or the local authority shall, in each case, be treated as references to the Company; and
- d) references to the head teacher shall, in each case, be treated as references to the Principal of each Academy.

Assessment

30) The Secretary of State will notify the appropriate body for assessment purposes about each Academy.

a) The Company shall ensure that the Academy complies with any guidance issued by the Secretary of State from time to time to ensure that pupils take part in assessments and in teacher assessments of pupil's performance as they apply to maintained schools.

b) The Company shall report to any body on assessments under clause 30 as the Secretary of State shall require and shall provide such information as may be required by that body as applies to maintained schools.

c) In respect of all Key Stages, the Company will submit each Academy to monitoring and moderation of its assessment arrangements as required by the Secretary of State.

d) In relation to courses of education or training at an Academy which are funded from its GAG, the Company may offer:

- (i) any course of education or training which leads to a qualification that is approved by the Secretary of State for the purposes of section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000; and
- (ii) any course of education or training not falling within paragraph 30(d)(i) if the Secretary of State gives his specific written approval for it.

30A) Subject to clause 30B, the Company shall ensure that the following information is published on the website for each Academy:-

- (a) the school's most recent Key Stage 2 results as published by the Secretary of State under the following column headings in the School Performance Tables published on the Department for Education's website:-
 - (i) "% achieving Level 4 or above in English and mathematics";
 - (ii) "% making expected progress";
 - (iii) in relation to English, "% achieving Level 5 or above"; and
 - (iv) in relation to mathematics, "%achieving Level 5 or above";
- (b) the school's most recent Key Stage 4 results as published by the Secretary of State under the following column headings in the School Performance Tables published on the Department for Education's website:-
 - (i) "% achieving 5 + A* - C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and mathematics GCSEs";
 - (ii) "% achieving the English Baccalaureate"; and
 - (iii) "% of pupils making expected progress";
- (c) information as to where and by what means the most recent report about the school published by the Chief Inspector may be accessed;
- (d) information as to where and by what means the School Performance Tables published by the Secretary of State on the Department for Education's website may be accessed.

30B) There is no requirement to publish information under clause 30A if to do so would be in breach of the Company's obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Exclusions Agreement

31) The Company shall, if invited to do so by an LA, enter into an agreement in respect of an Academy with that LA, which has the effect that where:

- a) the Company admits a pupil to the Academy who has been permanently excluded from a maintained school, the Academy itself or another Academy with whom the LA has a similar agreement; or
- b) the Company permanently excludes a pupil from the Academy

payment will flow between the Company and the LA in the same direction and for the same amount that it would, were the Academy a maintained school, under Regulations made under section 47 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 relating to the addition or deduction of a maintained school's budget following a permanent exclusion or the admission of a permanently excluded pupil. At the date of this Agreement, the applicable Regulation is Regulation 23 of the School Finance (England) Regulations 2011.

School Meals

32) The Company shall, if requested to do so by or on behalf of any pupils at any Academy, provide school lunches for those pupils unless it would be unreasonable for it to do so. Subject to the provisions of clause 33 charges may be levied for lunches, but the Company shall otherwise fund the cost of such school lunches from its GAG.

33) In relation to a pupil who is himself or whose parents are in receipt of benefits mentioned in section 512ZB of the Education Act 1996 (or equivalent provision governing the entitlement to free school lunches of pupils at maintained schools), the Company shall ensure that a school lunch is provided for such a pupil free of charge to be funded by the Company.

Charging

34) Sections 402 (Obligation to enter pupils for public examinations), 450 - 457 (charges), 459 (regulations about information about charges and school hours) and 460 (voluntary contributions), 461 (recovery of sums as civil debt) - 462 (Interpretation re charges) of the Education Act 1996 (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any secondary legislation made further to those provisions) shall be deemed to apply to each Academy with the following modifications:

- a) references to any maintained school shall be treated as references to an Academy;
- b) references to registered pupils shall be treated as references to registered pupils at an Academy;
- c) references to the governing body or the local authority shall, in each case, be treated as references to the Company;
- d) the Company may charge persons who are not registered pupils at an Academy for education provided or for facilities used by them at that Academy.

International Education Surveys

34A) Section 538A of the Education Act 1996 (power to direct participation in international surveys) shall be deemed to apply to each Academy with the following modifications:

- a) references to the governing body shall be treated as references to the Company; and
- b) references to a community, foundation or voluntary school shall be treated as references to the Academy.

Pupil Premium

34B) The Company shall publish in each Academy Financial Year information in relation to:-

- c) the amount of Pupil Premium allocation that it will receive during the Academy Financial Year;
- d) on what it intends to spend the Pupil Premium allocation;
- e) on what it spent its Pupil Premium in the previous Academy Financial Year;
- f) the impact in educational attainment, arising from expenditure of the previous Academy Financial Year's Pupil Premium.

DURATION OF SCHOOL DAY AND YEAR

34C) In respect of the Academies, the duration of the school day and year will be the responsibility of the Company.

GRANTS TO BE PAID BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

General

35) The Secretary of State shall pay grants towards Recurrent Expenditure and may pay grants towards Capital Expenditure for each Academy. Except with the Secretary of State's prior agreement, the Company shall not budget for its expenditure in any Academy Financial Year in excess of expected income (subject to clause 80). The Company shall not enter into commitments which are likely to have substantial implications for future levels of grant, or for the period for which grant may be required. No decision by the Company shall commit the Secretary of State to paying any particular amount of grant.

36) "Recurrent Expenditure" means any expenditure on the establishment, conduct,

administration and maintenance of the Academy which does not fall within the categories of Capital Expenditure set out at clause 37. The Secretary of State shall pay two separate and distinct grants in respect of Recurrent Expenditure: General Annual Grant (“GAG”) and Earmarked Annual Grant (“EAG”).

Capital Grant

37) “Capital Expenditure” means expenditure on:

- a) the acquisition of land and buildings;
- b) the erection, enlargement, improvement or demolition of any building including fixed plant, installation, wall, fence or other structure, or any playground or hard standing;
- c) the installation of electrical, mechanical or other services other than necessary replacements, repairs and maintenance due to normal wear and tear;
- d) the purchase of vehicles and other self-propelled mechanical equipment;
- e) the installation and equipping of premises with furnishings and equipment, other than necessary replacements, repairs and maintenance due to normal wear and tear;
- f) the installation and equipping of premises with computers, networking for computers, operating software and information and communication technology equipment, other than necessary updates or necessary replacements, repairs and maintenance due to normal wear and tear;
- g) the provision and equipping of premises, including playing fields and other facilities for social activities and physical recreation other than necessary replacements, repairs and maintenance due to normal wear and tear;
- h) works of a permanent character other than the purchase or replacement of minor day-to day items;
- i) any major repairs or replacements which are specified as constituting capital expenditure in any grant letter relating to them;
- j) such other items (whether of a like or dissimilar nature to any of the foregoing) of a substantial or enduring nature as the Secretary of State may agree shall constitute capital expenditure for the purposes of this Agreement;

k) all professional fees properly and reasonably incurred in connection with the provision of any of the above;

l) VAT and other taxes payable on any of the above.

“Capital Grant” means grant paid to the Company in respect of Capital Expenditure.

38) Where an Academy is to open in new premises, or where existing premises are to be substantially refurbished or remodelled to enable the Academy to open in such premises, the Secretary of State, may, in his absolute discretion be responsible for meeting the incurred Capital Expenditure for that Academy. To that end, the Secretary of State will consider providing funding in accordance with any arrangements as he considers appropriate.

39) Any Capital Expenditure incurred in respect of each Academy on which Capital Grant payments are sought from the Secretary of State will require the specific prior written agreement of the Secretary of State, which agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

40) Any payment of Capital Grant to the Company under this Agreement is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

a) such grants are used solely to defray expenditure approved by the Secretary of State;

b) the Company certifying and providing evidence that all planning and other consents necessary for the development and all related infrastructure to be completed have been obtained or put in place;

c) any other conditions that the Secretary of State may specify.

Arrangements for Payment of Capital Grant

41) Capital Grant will be paid by the Secretary of State to the Company on the basis of claims for grant submitted to the Secretary of State in the notified format with supporting invoices and certificates as required by the Secretary of State. If a dispute arises as to whether a claim is or is not acceptable both parties undertake to attempt to resolve it in good faith. In the event of such a dispute, the Secretary of State shall pay to the Company so much of the claim as shall not be in dispute.

General Annual Grant

41A) GAG paid by the Secretary of State in respect of the Academies shall only be spent by the Company towards the normal running costs of the Academies.

42) GAG will be paid by the Secretary of State to the Company in order to cover the normal running costs of each Academy. These will include, but are not limited to:

- a) teachers' salaries and related costs (including full and part time teaching staff and seconded teachers);
- b) non-teaching staff salaries and related costs (including pension contributions, educational support staff, administrative and clerical staff and manual and premises related staff);
- c) employees' expenses;
- d) the purchase, maintenance, repair and replacement:
 - (i) of teaching and learning materials and other educational equipment, including books, stationery and ICT equipment and software, sports equipment and laboratory equipment and materials;
 - (ii) of other supplies and services;
- e) examination fees;
- f) repairs, servicing and maintenance of buildings (including redecoration, heating, plumbing, lighting etc); maintenance of grounds (including boundary fences and walls); cleaning materials and contract cleaning; water and sewage; fuel and light (including fuel oil, solid and other fuel, electricity and gas); rents; rates; purchase, maintenance, repairs and replacement of furniture and fittings;
- g) insurance;
- h) medical equipment and supplies;
- i) staff development (including in-service training);
- j) curriculum development;

- k) the costs of providing school meals for pupils (including the cost of providing free school meals to pupils who are eligible to receive them), and discretionary grants to pupils to meet the cost of pupil support, including support for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities (taking account of the fact that separate additional money will be available for pupils with statements of special educational needs);
- l) administration; and
- m) establishment expenses and other institutional costs.

43) Subject to clauses to 51-52, GAG for each Academy Financial Year for each Academy will include:

- a) funding equivalent to that which would be received by a maintained school with similar characteristics, determined by the Secretary of State and notified in the Annual Letter of Funding or its equivalent, taking account of the number of pupils at each Academy;
- b) funding in respect of functions which would be carried out by the local authority if each Academy was a maintained school.

44) The GAG for each Academy Financial Year for each Academy will also include, payable on a basis equivalent to that applied to maintained schools:

- a) funding for matters for which it is necessary for that Academy to incur extra costs, for as long as those costs are deemed necessary by the Secretary of State; and
- b) payments in respect of further, specific grants made available to maintained schools, where the relevant Academy meets the requisite conditions and criteria necessary (other than being a maintained school) for a maintained school to receive these grants, such payments to be at the discretion of the Secretary of State.

45) Subject to clause 47, the basis of the pupil number count for the purposes of determining GAG for the Academy Financial Year in which an Academy opens shall be the same basis as that used by the LA for determining the budget share of the predecessor maintained school as adjusted by numbers counted in any subsequent Schools Census, as determined by the Secretary of State.

46) Subject to clause 47 the basis of the pupil number count for the purpose of determining GAG for an Academy for Academy Financial Years after the Academy Financial Year in which the Academy opens will be:

- a) for the pupil number count for pupils in Year 11 and below, the Schools Census which is used to fund maintained schools for the financial year overlapping with the Academy Financial Year in question; and
- b) for the pupil number count for pupils in Year 12 and above, the formula which for the time being is in use for maintained schools for the calculation of pupil numbers for pupils in Year 12 and above for the purpose of calculating their level of funding.

47) Where either of the following conditions applies in respect of an Academy Financial Year, the basis of the pupil count shall be determined by the Secretary of State, taking account of any diseconomies of scale that the Academy will be under as a result of such condition(s) applying. The conditions are:

- a) not all planned Year-groups will be present at the Academy (that is, not all the pupil cohorts relevant to the age-range of the Academy will have some pupils present); or
- b) the total number of pupils as measured in the Schools Census which is used to fund maintained schools for the financial year overlapping with the Academy Financial Year in question is less than 90% of the planned final size of the Academy, as specified in the Academy's Supplemental Agreement and has not at any previous time been 90% or more of that number.

48) For any Academy Financial Year in which GAG for an Academy has been calculated in accordance with clause 45, no adjustment shall be made to the following Academy Financial Year's formula funding element of GAG for that Academy to recognise variation from the pupil count basis used.

49) For any Academy Financial Year in which GAG for an Academy is calculated in accordance with clause 46, no adjustment will be made to the formula funding element in the following Academy Financial Year's formula funding element of GAG unless the Company demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State that there has been a significant impact on balances. For any other element of GAG the Secretary of State may make adjustments to recognise a variation in pupil numbers from that used to calculate the element of grant in question; the basis of these will be set out in the annual letter of funding.

50) The Secretary of State recognises that:

- a) in relation to Academies which open with intakes representing only a proportion of the final planned size of the Academy, payments based simply upon the number of pupils present are unlikely to be sufficient to meet the Academy's needs in the Academy Financial Years before all age groups are present at their planned size (the "Start-up Period") because of a lack of economies of scale. The Secretary of State may pay an appropriately larger GAG in the Start-up Period than would be justified solely on the basis of the methods set out in clauses 43-49, in order to enable the Academy to operate effectively;
- b) in relation to Academies which open with pupils transferred from one or more maintained schools which have closed, additional GAG resources may be required to take account of transitional costs including any costs associated with supporting the integration of pupils from the closed schools and, where necessary, to offer a dual curriculum. If the Secretary of State has indicated that such additional GAG will be payable, the Company will make a bid for this addition to GAG based upon need and providing appropriate supporting evidence.

51) During the Start-up Period or during the period when year groups are present who have transferred from a predecessor school or schools, the Secretary of State will pay a further element of GAG additional to that calculated in accordance with the methods set out in clauses 43-49 to allow the relevant Academy to:

- a) purchase a basic stock of teaching and learning materials (including library books, text books, software, stationery, science equipment and equipment for physical education) and other consumable materials;
- b) meet the costs associated with the recruitment and induction of additional teaching and other staff.

After the Start-up Period these costs will be met through the ordinary GAG.

52) The Secretary of State recognises that if he serves notice of intention to terminate a Supplemental Agreement under that agreement the intake of new pupils during the notice period is likely to decline and that in such circumstances payments based simply upon the number of pupils attending the relevant Academy are unlikely to be sufficient to meet the Academy's needs during the notice period. The Secretary of State may undertake to pay a reasonable and appropriately larger GAG with respect to that Academy in the notice period than would be justified solely on the basis of the methods set out in clauses 43-49, in order to enable the Academy to operate effectively.

53) The Secretary of State also recognises that if this Agreement or a Supplemental Agreement is terminated for any reason by either party the number of pupils at the relevant Academy or Academies is likely to decline. In these circumstances both parties undertake to attempt to resolve issues arising from such termination in good faith and with the aim of protecting the interests and the education of the pupils at the Academy.

54) Not used.

Earmarked Annual Grant

55) Earmarked Annual Grant (“EAG”) may be paid by the Secretary of State to the Company in respect of either Recurrent Expenditure or Capital Expenditure for such specific purposes as may from time to time be agreed between the Secretary of State and the Company and as described in the relevant funding letter. The Company shall only spend EAG in accordance with the scope, terms and conditions of the grant set out in the relevant funding letter.

56) Where the Company is seeking a specific EAG in relation to any Academy Financial Year, it shall submit a letter outlining its proposals and the reasons for its request to the DfE.

Arrangements for Payment of GAG and EAG

57) The Secretary of State shall notify the Company at a date preceding the start of each Academy Financial Year of the GAG and EAG figures in respect of each Academy which, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Secretary of State plans for that Academy Financial Year and of the assumptions and figures on which these are based.

58) If GAG or EAG is calculated incorrectly due to a mistake of the Secretary of State then:

- a) if this leads to an underpayment of GAG, the Secretary of State will correct the underpayment in subsequent Academy Financial Years;
- b) if this leads to an overpayment of GAG, the Secretary of State reserves the right to recover any overpaid grant in subsequent Academy Financial Years, as appropriate, having considered all the relevant circumstances and taking into account any representations from the Company.

59) If GAG or EAG is calculated incorrectly because the Company provides incorrect information to the Secretary of State then;

- a) if this leads to an underpayment of GAG, the Secretary of State may correct the

underpayment in subsequent Academy Financial Years;

b) if this leads to an overpayment of GAG, the Secretary of State reserves the right to recover any overpaid grant in subsequent Academy Financial Years, as appropriate, having considered all the relevant circumstances and taking into account any representations from the Company.

60) The amounts of GAG for an Academy Financial Year will be determined annually by the Secretary of State. The amount of GAG for each Academy for the initial Academy Financial Year will be notified to the Company in a funding letter at a date preceding that year. For subsequent years the amount of GAG will be notified to the Company in a funding letter preceding that Academy Financial Year (the "Annual Letter of Funding"). The Annual Letter of Funding will not include the amount that the Company will receive in respect of grants for which information to enable timely calculation is not available or is incomplete, such grants will be notified as soon as practicable later in the year. Amounts of EAG will be notified to the Company wherever possible in the Annual Letter of Funding or its equivalent as soon as practicable thereafter.

61) The Secretary of State undertakes to pay GAG in monthly instalments on or before the twenty fifth day of each month, each such instalment to fund the salaries and other payroll costs for the relevant month of all monthly paid employees and all other costs payable during the next following month. The detailed arrangements for payment will be set out in the Annual Letter of Funding or its equivalent.

Other relevant funding

62) Not used.

63) The Secretary of State may meet costs incurred by the Company in connection with the transfer of employees from any predecessor school under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. Payment of grant in respect of such costs is to be agreed between the parties on a case by case basis and the Company shall not budget on the basis that it will receive any grant in respect of such costs unless it is specifically notified that such grant will be paid.

64) The Company may also receive funding from an LA in respect of the provision detailed in statements of SEN for pupils attending an Academy in accordance with the provisions of Section 483A of the Education Act 1996 and regulations made under that section. The Company shall ensure that all provision detailed in statements of SEN is provided for such

pupils.

65) Not used.

FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS

General

66) The Company shall appoint an Accounting Officer and shall notify the Secretary of State of that appointment.

67) In relation to the use of grant paid to the Company by the Secretary of State, the Company shall abide by the requirements of and have regard to the guidance in the Academies Financial Handbook published by the DfE and amended from time to time and as modified to take account of the fact that the Company manages more than one Academy, which sets out in detail provisions for the financial management of each Academy including guidance on financial systems and controls and accounting and reporting requirements, in so far as these are not inconsistent with any accounting and reporting requirements and guidance that it may be subject to by virtue of its being a charity.

67A) The Company shall abide by the requirements of the current 16 to 19 Funding Guidance published by the Secretary of State and as amended from time to time, or such other guidance on 16 to 19 funding issued by the Secretary of State as may from time to time be applicable, in respect of any of its provision for persons who are above compulsory school age until the academic year in which they reach the age of 19.

68) The formal budget plan must be approved each Academy Financial Year by the Directors of the Company.

69) Any payment of grant by the Secretary of State in respect of each Academy is subject to his being satisfied as to the fulfilment by the Company of the following conditions:

- a) in its conduct and operation it shall apply financial and other controls which conform to the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management;
- b) arrangements have been made to maintain proper accounting records and that statements of income and expenditure and balance sheets may be produced in such form and frequency as the Secretary of State may from time to time reasonably direct;

- c) in addition to the obligation to fulfil the statutory requirements referred to in sub-clause f) below, the Company shall prepare its financial statements, Directors' report, Annual Accounts and its Annual Return for each Academy Financial Year in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice as issued by the Charity Commission and updated from time to time as if the Company was a non-exempt Charity and/or in such form or manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may reasonably direct and shall file these with the Secretary of State and the Principal Regulator each Academy Financial Year;
- d) a statement of the accounting policies used should be sent to the Secretary of State with the financial statements and should carry an audit report stating that, in the opinion of the auditors, the statements show a true and fair view of the Company's affairs and that the grants were used for the purposes intended;
- e) the Company shall ensure that its accounts are audited annually by independent auditors appointed under arrangements approved by the Secretary of State;
- f) the Company prepares and files with the Companies Registry such annual accounts as are required by the Companies Act 2006;
- g) the Company shall publish on its website its Annual Accounts, Annual Report, Memorandum, Articles, Funding Agreement and a list of the names of the Directors of the Company; and
- h) the Company insures or procures insurance by another person of its assets in accordance with normal commercial practice or under the terms of any subsisting leases in respect of the leasehold interest of the site upon which each Academy is situated;

70) In addition, and at his expense, the Secretary of State may instruct auditors to report to him on the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting systems and internal controls maintained by the Company to standards determined by the Secretary of State and to make recommendations for improving the financial management of the Company.

71) The books of accounts and all relevant records, files and reports of the Company including those relating to financial controls, shall be open at all reasonable times to officials of the DfE and the National Audit Office and to contractors retained by the DfE or the National Audit Office for inspection or the carrying out of value for money studies; and the Company shall secure that those officials and contractors are given reasonable assistance

with their enquiries. For the purposes of this clause 'relevant' means in any way relevant to the provision and use of grants provided by the Secretary of State under this Agreement.

72) The Company shall submit information in relation to the finances of each Academy to the Secretary of State in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook as amended from time to time, or as otherwise specified from time to time by the Secretary of State.

73) At the beginning of any Academy Financial Year the Company may hold unspent GAG for any Academy from previous Academy Financial Years amounting to such percentage (if any) as for the time being specified in the Academies Financial Handbook or otherwise as the Secretary of State may specify by notice in writing to the Company prior to the beginning of that Academy Financial Year of the total GAG payable for the Academy in the Academy Financial Year just ended or such higher amount as may from time to time be agreed. The Company shall use such carried forward amount for such purpose, or subject to such restriction on its use, as for the time being specified in the Academies Financial Handbook or otherwise as the Secretary of State may specify by notice in writing to the Company.

74) Notwithstanding clause 73, any additional grant provided over and above that set out in clauses 43-49 and made in accordance with clauses 50-52 may be carried forward without limitation or deduction until the Start-up Period or the circumstances set out in clause 52.

75) Any unspent GAG not allowed to be carried forward under clauses 73-74 may be taken into account in the payment of subsequent grant.

76) The Company may also spend or accumulate funds from private sources or public sources other than grants from the Secretary of State for application to the benefit of an Academy as it sees fit. Any surplus arising from private sources or public sources other than grants from the Secretary of State shall be separately identified in the Company's balance sheet.

76A) Grants paid by the Secretary of State shall only be used by the Company for purposes listed in Article 4(a) of the Articles. Such funds shall not be used by the Company for purposes listed in Article 4(b) of the Articles without the prior written consent of the Secretary of State except where the use of such funds for a charitable purpose set out in Article 4(b) is merely incidental to their use for the purposes set out in Article 4(a) of the Articles.

77) The Company shall not, in relation to assets or property funded (whether in whole or in part) by the Secretary of State or otherwise coming within the meaning of publicly funded

land as defined by paragraph 22(3) of Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010, without the prior written consent of the Secretary of State which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed:

- a) except such as are given in normal contractual relations, give any guarantees, indemnities or letters of comfort above a value as for the time being specified in the Academies Financial Handbook or otherwise as the Secretary of State may specify by notice in writing to the Company from time to time;
- b) write off any debts or liabilities owed to it, nor offer to make any ex gratia payments (such as staff severance or compensation payments), above a value as for the time being specified in the Academies Financial Handbook or otherwise as the Secretary of State may specify by notice in writing to the Company from time to time;
- c) except as may be permitted in the Academies Financial Handbook or otherwise as the Secretary of State may specify by notice in writing to the Company, make any sale or purchase of or otherwise dispose of freehold or leasehold property including entering into a contract to dispose of land or granting an option to acquire an interest in land; or
- d) take up any leasehold or tenancy agreement for a term exceeding three years.

78) The Company shall provide 30 days' prior written notice to the Secretary of State, whether or not the circumstances require the Secretary of State's consent, of its intention to:

- a) give any guarantees, indemnities or letters of comfort;
- b) write off any debts owed to it or offer to make any ex gratia payments;
- c) make any sale or purchase or otherwise dispose of freehold or leasehold property including entering into a contract to dispose of land or granting an option to acquire an interest in land; or
- d) take up any leasehold or tenancy agreement for a term exceeding three years.

79) Each discovered loss of an amount exceeding the amount for the time being specified by the Secretary of State and arising from suspected theft or fraud, shall be reported by the Company to the Secretary of State at the earliest opportunity.

80) It is the responsibility of the Company to ensure that each Academy balances its budget

from Academy Financial Year to Academy Financial Year. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not prevent the Company from:

- a) subject to clause 73, carrying a surplus from one Academy Financial Year to the next;
or
- b) carrying forward from a previous Academy Financial Year or Academy Financial Years a sufficient surplus or sufficient cumulative surpluses on grants from the Secretary of State to meet an in-year deficit on such grants in a subsequent financial year; or
- c) incurring an in-year deficit on funds from sources other than grants from the Secretary of State in any Academy Financial Year, provided it does not affect the Company's responsibility to ensure that the Company balances its overall budget from Academy Financial Year to Academy Financial Year.

80A) The Company shall abide by the requirements of and have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance to charities and charity trustees and in particular the Charity Commission's guidance in Protecting Charities from Harm ('the compliance toolkit'). Any references in this document which require charity trustees to report to the Charity Commission should instead be interpreted as references to report to the Principal Regulator.

Borrowing Powers

81) Except as may be permitted by the Academies Financial Handbook (and amended from time to time) or otherwise as the Secretary of State may specify by notice in writing to the Company, the Company shall not borrow against or so as to put at risk property or assets funded (whether in whole or in part) by the Secretary of State without specific approval of the Secretary of State, such approval may only be granted in limited circumstances. The Company shall not operate an overdraft except to cover irregularities in cash flow. Such an overdraft, and the maximum amount to be borrowed, shall require approval by the Company in General Meeting and in writing by the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to any conditions which the Secretary of State may reasonably impose.

82) The Company shall provide 30 days' written notice to the Secretary of State of its intention to borrow, whether or not such borrowing requires the Secretary of State's approval under clause 81 above.

Disposal of Assets

83) Where the Company acquires assets for a nil consideration or at an under value it shall be treated for the purpose of this Agreement as having incurred expenditure equal to the market value of those assets at the time that they were acquired. This provision shall not apply to assets transferred to the Company at nil or nominal consideration and which were previously used for the purposes of an Academy and/or were transferred from an LA, the value of which assets shall be disregarded.

84) The sale or disposal by other means, or reinvestment of proceeds from the disposal, of a capital asset by the Company shall require the consent of the Secretary of State, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed, where:

- a) the Secretary of State paid capital grant in excess of the value for the time being specified by the Secretary of State for the asset; or
- b) the asset was transferred to the Company from an LA for no or nominal consideration.

85) Furthermore, reinvestment of a percentage of the proceeds of disposal of a capital asset paid for with a capital grant from the Secretary of State shall require the Secretary of State's consent in the circumstances set out above and reinvestment exceeding the value for the time being specified by the Secretary of State or with other special features will be subject to Parliamentary approval. The percentage of the proceeds for which consent is needed is the percentage of the initial price of the asset which was paid by capital grant from the Secretary of State.

86) This clause applies in the event, during the lifetime of this Agreement, of the disposal of a capital asset for which capital grant of any amount was paid by the Secretary of State, where the asset was acquired by the Company. In this event, the Company shall repay to the Secretary of State the same proportion of the proceeds of the disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State, unless the Secretary of State agrees to some or all of the proceeds being retained by the Company for its charitable purposes.

87) This clause applies in the event, during the lifetime of this Agreement, that the Secretary of State consents to the disposal of an asset which was transferred to the Company from an LA for no or nominal consideration. In this event the Secretary of State may give consent on the basis that all or part of the proceeds of the disposal should be made over to the LA from which the asset was transferred, taking into account the amount of the proceeds to be

reinvested by the Company. The Secretary of State will have regard to any representations from the Company and the LA from which the asset was transferred before giving consent under this clause.

88) Except with the consent of the Secretary of State, the Company shall not dispose of assets funded (whether in whole or in part) by the Secretary of State for a consideration less than the best price that can reasonably be obtained, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

89) The Company shall provide 30 days' written notice to the Secretary of State of its intention to dispose of assets for a consideration less than the best price that can reasonably be obtained, whether or not such disposal requires the Secretary of State's consent under clause 88 above.

TERMINATION

90) This Agreement shall commence on the date hereof and continue until terminated in accordance with clause 91 or until all Supplemental Agreements have terminated.

91) The Secretary of State may at any time by notice in writing terminate this Agreement and each of the Supplemental Agreements such termination to take effect on the date of the notice, on the occurrence, or where in his reasonable opinion there is a serious risk of occurrence, of any of the following events:-

- a) the Company calls a meeting of its creditors (whether formal or informal) or enters into any composition or arrangement (whether formal or informal) with its creditors; or
- b) the Company proposes a voluntary arrangement within section 1 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (as amended); or
- c) the Company is unable to pay its debts within the meaning of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986 provided that, for the purposes of this clause, section 123 (1)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986 shall have effect as if the amount of £10,000 was substituted for £750. The Company shall not be deemed unable to pay its debts for the purposes of this clause if any such demand as is mentioned in the said Section is being contested in good faith by the Company; or
- d) the Company has a receiver and manager (with the exception of Receivers and Managers or Interim Managers appointed by the Charity Commission under the Charities

Act 2011 or any subsequent re-enactment of that Act), administrator or administrative receiver appointed over all or any part of its undertakings, assets or income; or

e) any distraint, execution or other process is levied or enforced on any of the Company's property and is not paid out, withdrawn or discharged within fifteen Business Days; or

f) the Company has passed a resolution for its winding up; or

g) an order is made for the winding up or administration of the Company.

92) The Company shall notify the Secretary of State as soon as possible after receiving any petition which may result in an order for the winding up or administration of the Company and shall provide an explanation to the Secretary of State of the circumstances giving rise to the service of such a petition.

93) Not used.

Change of Control

93A) The Secretary of State may at any time, subject to clause 93C) below, terminate this Agreement by notice in writing to the Company such termination to take effect on the date of the notice in the event that there is a change:

a) in the Control of the Company;

b) in the Control of a legal entity that Controls the Company.

Provided that where a person ("P") is a member or director of the body corporate (as a corporation sole or otherwise) by virtue of an office, no change of Control arises merely by P's successor becoming a member or director in P's place.

93B) The Company shall notify the Secretary of State in writing of any change or proposed change of Control within the meaning of clause 93A) above, as soon as reasonably practicable after it has become aware of any such change, or proposed change, of Control.

93C) When notifying the Secretary of State further to clause 93B), the Company may seek the Secretary of State's agreement that, if he is satisfied that the person assuming Control is suitable, he will not in those circumstances exercise his right to terminate this Agreement further to clause 93A).

94) Not used.

GENERAL

Information

95) Without prejudice to any other provision of this Agreement, the Secretary of State acting reasonably may from time to time call for information on any Academy's:

- a) curriculum;
- b) arrangements for the assessment of pupils;
- c) teaching staff including numbers, qualifications, experience, salaries, and teaching loads;
- d) class sizes;
- e) outreach work with other schools and the local community;
- f) operation of the admission criteria and over subscription arrangements for the Academy including numbers of applications for places and the number and characteristics of pupils accepted for admission;
- g) numbers of pupils excluded (including permanent and fixed term exclusions);
- h) levels of authorised and unauthorised absence;
- i) charging and remissions policies and the operation of those policies;
- j) organisation, operation and building management;
- k) financial controls;
- l) compliance with the requirements of the Charity Commission's guidance to charities and charity trustees and in particular the Charity Commission's guidance in the Protecting Charities from Harm ('the compliance toolkit') and in CC9: Speaking Out, Campaigning and Political Activities by Charities, as amended from time to time; and
- m) membership and proceedings of the Company and the Local Governing Body together with any other relevant information concerning the management or governance of the Academy which, subject to clause 99), is reasonably necessary for

the Secretary of State to carry out his functions generally and in relation to this Agreement or the relevant Supplemental Agreement.

96) The Company shall make such information available to the Secretary of State, in such form and manner and at such times as may reasonably be required. The Secretary of State shall provide the Company with such information as it may reasonably require of him for the running of an Academy.

Access by the Secretary of State's Officers

97) The Company shall allow access to the premises of any Academy at any reasonable time to DfE officials. All records, files and reports relating to the running of the Company and each Academy shall be available to them at any reasonable time. The Company shall provide the Secretary of State in advance with papers relating to each Academy prepared for meetings of the Local Governing Body, of the Company's directors and of the members of the Company. Two DfE officials shall be entitled to attend and to speak at all such meetings, but shall withdraw from any discussion of an Academy's or the Company's relationship with the Secretary of State or any discussion of bids for funding to the Secretary of State. The Company shall take any steps which are required to secure its compliance with the obligations imposed by this clause of this Agreement.

98) The Company shall ensure that:

- a) the agenda for every meeting of the relevant Local Governing Body and the Company's directors;
- b) the draft minutes of every such meeting, if they have been approved by the person acting as chairman of that meeting;
- c) the signed minutes of every such meeting; and
- d) any report, document or other paper considered at any such meeting,

are made available for inspection by any interested party at the relevant Academy and, as soon as is reasonably practicable, sent to the Secretary of State upon request.

99) There may be excluded from any item required to be made available for inspection by any interested party and to be sent to the Secretary of State by virtue of clause 98, any material relating to:

- a) a named teacher or other person employed, or proposed to be employed, at any Academy;
- b) a named pupil at, or candidate for admission to, any Academy; and
- c) any matter which, by reason of its nature, the Company is satisfied should remain confidential.

Notices

100) A notice or communication given to a party under or in connection with this Agreement or a Supplemental Agreement:

- a) shall be in writing and in English;
- b) shall be sent to the party for the attention of the contact and at the address listed in clause 100A;
- c) shall be sent by a method listed in clause 100C; and
- d) is deemed received as set out in clause 100C if prepared and sent in accordance with this clause.

100A) The parties' addresses and contacts are:

Name of Party	Position of Contact	Address
Secretary of State	Head of Academies Division	Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT
The Company	Chairman of Directors	Company's registered office address

100B) A party may change its details given in the table in clause 100A) by giving notice, the change taking effect for the party notified of the change at 9.00am on the date five Business Days after deemed receipt of the notice.

100C) Any notice or other communication required to be given to a party under or in

connection with this Agreement shall be delivered by hand or sent by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service. Any notice or communication shall be deemed to have been received if delivered by hand, on signature of a delivery receipt or at the time the notice is left at the address specified in clause 100A, or otherwise at 9.00 am on the second Business Day after posting.

100D) This clause does not apply to the service of any proceedings or other documents in any legal action. For the purposes of clause 100, "writing" shall not include e-mail.

101) The service by the Secretary of State of a notice of termination of a Supplemental Agreement shall not prejudice the ability of the Company (if it wishes to do so) during the notice period to admit pupils to the relevant Academy in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and the relevant Supplemental Agreement and to receive GAG and EAG in respect of them.

Complaints

102) If a complaint is made about matters arising in whole or in part prior to the opening of any Academy, as referred to in clause 2.4 of the relevant supplemental agreement, and all or part of that complaint was being or had been investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman under Part III or the Local Government Act 1974 ("Part III") or that complaint in whole or in part could have been investigated under Part III had the school the Academy replaced remained a maintained school, the Company:

- a) will abide by the provisions of Part III as though the Academy were a maintained school;
- b) agrees that the Secretary of State shall have the power to investigate the matter complained of as if it had taken place after conversion;
- c) agrees to act in accordance with any recommendation from the Secretary of State as though that recommendation had been made under Part III and the Academy were a maintained school.

102A) If the Secretary of State could have given an order and/or a direction under section 496 and/or section 497 of the Education Act 1996 to the governing body of the school the Academy replaced (as referred to in clause 2.4 of the relevant Supplemental Agreement) and that order and/or direction related to matters occurring within the 12 months immediately prior to conversion, the Company agrees:

- a) the Secretary of State may give orders and/or directions to the Company as though the Academy were a maintained school and sections 496 and 497 applied to the governing body of that maintained school;
- b) to act in accordance with any such order and/or direction from the Secretary of State.

General

103) This Agreement shall not be assignable by the Company.

103A) No delay, neglect or forbearance on the part of the Secretary of State in enforcing (in whole or in part) any provision of this Agreement or in exercising (in whole or in part) any right or remedy conferred on him by this Agreement shall be or be deemed to be a waiver of such provision or right or remedy or a waiver of any other provision or right or remedy or shall in any way prejudice any right or remedy of the Secretary of State under this Agreement or shall amount to an election not to enforce such provision or exercise such right or remedy (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any right to terminate this Agreement). No single or partial exercise of such right or remedy shall preclude or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy.

104) The Secretary of State and the Company recognise the difficulties in catering in this Agreement and the Supplemental Agreements for all the circumstances which may arise in relation to the Academies and undertake in good faith to conduct such consultations as may from time to time be desirable in order to promote the interests of the Academies throughout the currency of this Agreement.

105) Termination of this agreement, for any reason, shall not affect the accrued rights, remedies, obligations or liabilities of the parties existing at termination.

106) This deed may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall constitute a duplicate original, but all the counterparts shall together constitute the one agreement.

107) This Agreement and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

108) The parties irrevocably agree that the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim that arises out of or in connection with this agreement or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims).

This Agreement was executed as a Deed on 26 March 2014

Executed on behalf of The Aquinas Catholic Academy Trust by:

.....
Director

.....]
Director/Secretary

The Corporate Seal of the Secretary of State for Education, hereunto affixed is authenticated by:

.....

Duly Authorised